

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The Official Action constitutes a requirement for restriction.

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group III, claim 10.

The following amendments to the claims have been made:

(1) in the amended claim 10, the phrase "HGF or a salt thereof to a mammal" has been amended to "hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to human", based upon page 3, last line, page 16, line 1 and page 33, line 21;

(2) new dependent claim 14 has been added, based on original claim 2;

(3) new dependent claim 15 has been added as a single species claim;

(4) new independent claim 16 has been added, based on the disclosure on page 1, lines 9-10, page 5, lines 6-7 and page 51, line 15 of the specification; and

(5) new dependent claims 17-20 have been added, based on the disclosure on page 35, lines 20-21 and 14 of the specification.

Please be advised that the scope of new claim 16 is narrower than that of original claim 10, and its second medical use claim (Swiss-type claim) was patented as UK patent 2414395 (date of publication: October 31, 2007) by UK Patent Office. Therefore consideration of claims 10-20 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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